Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BELGRA 02969 150248Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------025851 152051Z /65
R 131511Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6254
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
CNO WASHDC
USCINCEUR
CINCUSNAVEUR
COMSIXTHFLT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 2969

EXDIS

MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OCLR, UX, YO
SUBJECT: FORRESTAL PORT VISIT

REF: STATE 094674

1. I AM GETTING A LITTLE TIRED OF THE AMOUNT OF WORK INVOLVED IN KEEPING THE NAVY FROM SHOOTING ITSELF IN THE FOOT. LIKE THE NAVY I AM ANXIOUS TO GET BACK TO THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO SHIP VISITS THAT EXISTED PRIOR TO LAST YEAR'S ALLEGED OVERFLIGHT INCIDENT. SO LET US NOT WASTE TIME ARGUING OVER OBJECTIVES.

2. MY PROBLEM WITH REFTEL IS ONE OF TACTICS. IT WOULD SEEM TO ME LITTLE MORE THAN COMMON SENSE TO DEVELOP A PROGRAM OF GRADUAL REPEAT GRADUAL ESCALATION WHICH, WHILE MAINTAINING THE PRINCIPLES WE CONSIDER IMPORTANT, TAKES ACCOUNT OF YUGOSLVA SENSITIVITIES. THE TROUBLE WITH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BELGRA 02969 150248Z

REFTEL IS THAT IT STANDS FOUR SQUARE ON THE ABSTRACT PRINCIPLE, TOTALLY IGNORES TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS AND COMMITS THE U.S. TO ACTING LIKE A BULL IN A CHINA CLOSET.

3. I HAVE CONCEDED THAT FLIGHT OPERATIONS SHOULD TAKE PLACE OFF THE FORRESTAL EITHER ON THE VESSEL'S WAY INTO OR OUT OF SPLIT. HAVING THEREBY RECOGNIZED THE IMPORTANCE

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

OF THE PRINCIPLE OF FREEDOM OF THE SEAS, WHICH WILL
BE CLEARLY REINFORCED BY THE FLIGHT OPERATIONS, I CANNOT
FOR THE LIFE OF ME UNDERSTAND WHY IT IS NECESSARY
TO RUB YUGOSLAV NOSES IN THE MESS BY OPERATING BOTH ON THE
WAY IN AND ON THE WAY OUT. OUR POINT IS MADE BY DOING IT ONCE,
SO WHY TAKE CHANCES?

4. WITH REGARD TO PARA 5 REFTEL, THE EASY ANSWER WOULD
BE TO SAY THAT IT IS MY JUDGMENT THAT FLIGHTS DURING BOTH
TRANSITS WOULD SERIOUSLY AFFECT US-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS. I
CANNOT SAY THAT, BUT NEITHER CAN I PREDICT WITH TOTAL
CONFIDENCE THAT IT WILL NOT HAVE AN EFFECT. THE ANSWER
PROBABLY IS THAT THE YUGOSLAVS WILL REACT BADLY BUT, GIVEN
THE CURRENT STATE OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP, THEY WILL
NOT SAY MUCH. BUT IT COULD PLAY HELL WITH OUR ABILITY
LATER ON TO OBTAIN AUTHORITY FOR ANOTHER CARRIER VISIT, MUCH
LESS A NPW VISIT.

5. IN THE LAST ANALYSIS, THE QUESTION MUST BE ONE OF JUDGMENT
AND A SENSE OF WHAT THE TRAFFIC WILL BEAR. IN THAT REGARD,
WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, THIS EMBASSY IS A FAR BETTER
JUDGE OF THE QUESTION THAN WASHINGTON. IT IS MY JUDGMENT
THAT AIR OPERATIONS EITHER ON THE WAY IN OR ON THE WAY OUT
WILL CLEARLY DEMONSTRATE USG DEDICATION TO THE PRINCIPLES
INVOLVED, WHILE DECREASING THE CHANCES THAT WE WILL UPSET THE
GOY. MY JUDGMENT ON THAT QUESTION HAS NOT CHANGED AND WILL NOT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BELGRA 02969 150248Z

CHANGE AND WASHINGTON ARGUMENTS TO THE CONTRARY DO NOT IMPRESS
ME AT ALL.

6. CONSEQUENTLY I CONTINUE TO OBJECT STRONGLY TO PLANS
FOR FLIGHT OPERATIONS IN BOTH DIRECTIONS. GIVEN THE 60-DAY
QUESTION I HAVE INSTRUCTED THAT WE REQUEST CLEARANCE FOR
THE FORRESTAL.

7. WE HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH CONVEYING A NAVY INVITATION,
IF INSTRUCTED, TO BOARD THE FORRESTAL, BUT DOUBT THAT IT
WOULD BE TAKEN UP.
EAGLEBURGER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PORT CALLS, MILITARY PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BELGRA02969
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780163-0074
Format: TEL
From: BELGRADE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780459/aaaabyhp.tel
Line Count: 106
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0a65a1b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 94674
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2975415
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FORRESTAL PORT VISIT
TAGS: OCLR, US, YO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0a65a1b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014